COUNTY COUNCIL – 17TH JULY 2012
CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

PEOPLE

Corporal Alex Guy

It is with regret that the Chairman reports the death of Corporal Alex Guy from the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment who was killed during an operation targeting insurgents in Afghanistan on 15 June 2012. He was killed while leading his section to assist a group of Afghan soldiers pinned down by enemy fire during an insurgent ambush in the Nad-e Ali district of Helmand province. Corporal Guy, from St Neots in Cambridgeshire, had been in the army for 19 years and served on eight operational tours including Bosnia, Iraq, three of Northern Ireland and three of Afghanistan.

The UK's military role in Afghanistan since 2001 has brought with it a heavy human toll. Members of the Army, RAF, Royal Marines and special forces, from Cambridgeshire, who have lost their lives in the fight against the Taliban include:

- Warrant Officer Colin Beckett
- Private Robert Hayes
- Rifleman Andrew Fentiman
- Flight Sergeant Gerard Bell

Mary Bliszczak MBE

Congratulations go to Mary Bliszczak who has been awarded an MBE for services to school food in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. Mary joined the Cambridgeshire school meals service in 1976 as a Catering Assistant in Peterborough before becoming the School Caterer at Orton Longueville School. During this time she completed her City and Guilds qualification at Peterborough College on day release and in 1983 progressed into the role of Area Supervisor. In 1991 Mary moved into the role of Training Officer for Cambridgeshire Catering Service (CCS) and six years ago was promoted to her present role of Training Co-ordinator.

With her team, Mary delivers craft, theory and all mandatory courses. In addition, she develops training programmes for a variety of internal courses which take place at the CCS training kitchen in Huntingdon. Mary's responsibilities also include menu planning and recipe testing. In addition to her role at CCS, Mary has worked at many different catering establishments in Peterborough in the evenings and at weekends. She has also taught Food Safety at Peterborough City College Saturday school.

Councillor Sheila-Friend MBE

Congratulations also go to East Cambridgeshire District Councillor and former Cambridgeshire County Councillor Sheila Friend-Smith on being awarded an MBE for services to Local Government in East Cambridgeshire.

Poll of English Council Leaders and Chief Executives

Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive, has been included in the list of the top five 'most impressive' chief executives in a poll of English Council Leaders and Chief Executives conducted by Ipsos Mori for the Municipal Journal.

AWARDS

Alder Close, March

A Council respite service for adults with learning disabilities has been given top marks in every category after a visit by Government inspectors. The service in Alder Close, March, recently underwent an unannounced routine inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and was found to be performing well in all aspects of the inspection. The centre provides respite care for up to five people at a time with overnight and weekend stays. In total Alder Close provides support and services to around 40 people.

CQC inspectors spoke to service users, families and carers. They reported that people were positive about the care and support provided and the variety of activities available. Relatives interviewed were complimentary about the service and staff and found what was provided met their relative's needs well.

Jasmine House in Upherds Lane, Ely

A Council-run residential home for adults with learning disabilities has been given top marks in every category after a visit by Government inspectors. Jasmine House in Upherds Lane, Ely, recently underwent a routine inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and was found to be performing well in all aspects of the inspection.

The house provides residential care and support for six people who were interviewed as part of the inspection process. Inspectors also spoke to staff working at Jasmine House. Service users were positive and complimentary about the support they received. The CQC inspectors report, said: "We received positive comments from people about how they were respected and treated by staff and people told us that the care they were being given helped them achieve the things they wanted to do."

The outcome of the CQC inspection is an excellent achievement by everyone involved with Jasmine House and a reflection of the hard work, empathy and dedication that the staff team put into supporting those people who really need it.

Longstanton Exhibition Centre

Longstanton Exhibition Centre at the Longstanton Park and Ride site has won a Highly Commended award in the category of Design and Innovation at the 2012 Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Awards for the East of England. It was also recently awarded a Bronze Green Apple Award in the Green Apple International Built Environment and Architectural Heritage Awards. The building produces more electricity

than it needs via its photovoltaic cells, which enables the Council to sell electricity back to the grid creating income for the Council.

Trading Standards Institute Local Heroes Award

Every year the Trading Standards Institute recognises the contributions of members of the public to their communities through the Hero Awards. This year young people of Cambridgeshire have been recognised through these awards. The Kick Ash programme of work aims to tackle underage smoking through the use of mentors. These young people support a variety of work and have helped deliver some excellent results. They are truly worthy recipients of the Institute's Local Heroes Award.

Cambridge Archaeological Unit

The Cambridge Archaeological Unit has won two prizes out of the six judged at the British Archaeological Awards at the British Museum. The Must Farm, Whittlesey, excavations in 2011 came through in the Best Archaeological Project and Best Archaeological Discovery categories.

SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS

Local Sustainable Transport Fund

The Government has announced that the Council's £5m bid to the Department for Transport's Local Sustainable Transport Fund has been successful. The funding award will unlock further funding of £4.2 million to be spent on transport improvements. The programme is aimed at enhancing journey choice in two important economic areas in Cambridgeshire. The first area covers the Enterprise Zone at Alconbury, Huntingdon, St Ives, the Science Park area and Cambridge, and the second covers Ely, the Science Park area and Cambridge.

The programme will focus on improving links to key employment areas and to transport interchanges, such as railway stations and Busway stops, making it easier for people to travel from home to work, and to other key destinations. Improvements will range from infrastructure schemes such as new or improved pedestrian and cycle routes, to cycle parking and enhanced signage and travel information. The funding will also hasten the delivery of the new cycle parking facility at Cambridge station.

MESSAGES

High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire

Mrs Penelope Walkinshaw, the High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire will be present at the Council meeting on 17th July.

Standards Committee

The Council's Standards Committee met for the last time on 27 June 2012. The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, would like to thank the Committee particularly the Independent Members for their diligent service to the Standards Committee over the years.

Olympic Torch Relay and Inaugural Big Bike Ride

The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, would like to thank the staff who have worked over the last few months and at the weekend of 7/8 July to make the Olympic Torch Relay in Cambridgeshire a huge success. He would also like to thank all those involved in organising the inaugural Big Bike Ride on 8 July.

Olympics and Paralympics Teams

The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, would like to offer the best of luck to athletes from Cambridgeshire taking part in the Olympics and Paralympics. The Chairman also, on behalf of the Council, would like to take this opportunity to congratulate those County Council staff who have volunteered to be Gamesmakers for the forthcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games and to wish them all the best as they help make these events a success.

Appendix

CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN ACTIVITIES: 15 MAY – 17 JULY 2012

Chairman's engagements

May 2012

- St Ives mayor making ceremony – St Ives Corn Exchange
- Visit to Kreis Viersen for European Concert of Friendship
- Opening ceremony – Cambridge City Youth Games Festival
- Citizenship ceremony – Shire Hall
- 2012 Memorial Day ceremony – American Cemetery, Madingley
- Royal Garden Party – Buckingham Palace

June 2012

- Flag-raising ceremony and unveiling of portrait of The Queen – Huntingdonshire District Council
- Gates Cambridge: A Vision for the Future – Fitzwilliam College
- Diamond Jubilee service – Ely Cathedral
- Beacon lighting – Shire Hall
- Two Citizenship ceremonies – Shire Hall
- Welcome event for Friends of Kreis Viersen – Shire Hall
- Summer reception – Norfolk County Council
- St Ives Town Council Civic Parade and service
- Diamond Jubilee picnic – Burghley House
- Mayor's Open Day, Peterborough City Council
- Opening of Pippin's Children's Centre, Melbourn
- Viva Awards – Soham
- Annual Civic Leaders' tour – RAF Alconbury
- University of Cambridge honorary degree ceremony – Senate House
- Cambridge Cruse AGM – Landbeach
- High Sheriff's summer reception – Swaffham Prior
- Installation of Mayor of Peterborough – Peterborough Cathedral
- Armed Forces Day flag-raising ceremony – Shire Hall
- Children's Picture Book awards – St Ives Corn Exchange
- Shakespeare at The George – Huntingdon
- Fenland District Council Armed Forces Day – St Peter's Church, March
- St Neots Town Council Armed Forces Day – Eaton Socon

July 2012

- USAFE summer reception – RAF Mildenhall
- American Independence Day reception and fireworks – RAF Alconbury
- East of England Show – Peterborough
- Luminus Community Inspiration Awards 2012 – Huntingdon
- Olympic Torch Relay welcome – Anglia Ruskin University
- Wisbech Town Council civic service

- Lincolnshire County Council Chairman's service of dedication – Lincoln Cathedral
- Citizenship ceremony – Shire Hall
- Essex County Council Chairman's annual reception – Billericay
- Official opening of Peckover Primary School – Wisbech
- Fenland District Council Chairman's reception – Thomas Clarkson Community College
- Hertfordshire County Council Chairman's Jubilee garden party – Hertford
- Huntingdon Town Council civic services - Huntingdon

Vice-Chairman's engagements

May 2012

- St John Ambulance Service – Peterborough Cathedral
- Cambs County Forum Reserve Forces and Cadet Association for East Anglia – briefing for Civic Leaders

June 2012

- Two Citizenship ceremonies – Shire Hall
- Proclamation of Midsummer Fair – Cambridge
- Cambridge University Air Squadron annual reception – Cambridge

July 2012

- Citizenship ceremony – Shire Hall
- Sea Sunday service - Huntingdon